

REMARKS

Applicant is in receipt of the Office Action mailed July 11, 2003.

§103 Rejections

Claims 1, 4-9, 14-15, 20, 22-29, 34, and 37-42 were rejected under §103 as being unpatentable over Brandle et al. in view of Admitted Prior Art (APA).

Claims 2, 10-13, 16-19, 30-33, 35 and 43-46 were rejected under §103 as being unpatentable over Brandle et al. in view of Admitted Prior Art (APA) and further in view of Wadhwa.

Section 102 and 103 Rejections

Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to recite the limitations of:

selecting a graphical program in response to user input, wherein the graphical program comprises a plurality of connected nodes which visually indicate functionality of the graphical program, wherein the graphical program comprises at least one input received by a first node of the graphical program and at least one output produced by a second node of the graphical program;

specifying a functional interface for the graphical program, wherein said specifying comprises mapping the at least one input and the at least one output to entry point function parameters;

creating a shared library comprising the graphical program, wherein the shared library includes an entry point function created according to the functional interface specified for the graphical program;

Applicant submits that present claim 1, as amended, is allowable over the cited references. Applicant has amended claims 16, 30 and 34 in a similar manner, and submits that these claims are also allowable for similar reasons.

With respect to prior claim 16, the Office Action states that "Since Wadhwa teaches a program can be built into a dynamic link library, and APA teaches a graphical program is included in a shared library and can be executed through a shared library." Applicant respectfully submits that this is incorrect. Applicant submits that APA does

NOT teach a graphical program being included in a shared library. Rather, the APA referred to in the Office Action at most refers to using a shared library to call an Active X out-of-process server which itself is configured to invoke a desired graphical program. However, Applicant submits this is entirely different than creating a shared library that itself comprises a graphical program. In fact, Applicant submits that the indirect method discussed at page 5 of the patent specification teaches away from the method of the present claims, where a shared library is created that comprises an entry point function for a graphical program.

The Office Action further states that “it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art could build a graphical program into a dynamic link library using the technique taught by Wadwha.” Applicant respectfully submits that this too is incorrect. Applicant submits that specification of the functional interface for a graphical program is different than the method used for text-based programs. Applicant has amended claim 1 to recite: “wherein the graphical program comprises a plurality of connected nodes which visually indicate functionality of the graphical program, wherein the graphical program comprises at least one input received by a first node of the graphical program and at least one output produced by a second node of the graphical program.” Claim 1 further recites “specifying a functional interface for the graphical program, wherein said specifying comprises mapping the at least one input and the at least one output to entry point function parameters.”

Applicant respectfully submits that none of the cited references teach or suggest specifying a functional interface for a graphical program by mapping an input received by a first node of the graphical program and an output produced by a second node of the graphical program to entry point function parameters. This operation is simply not performed in text-based programs, and is not taught or suggested in any of the cited references.

Thus, Applicant submits that independent claim 1, 16, 30, and 34 are allowable over the cited references.

Claim 20, as amended, recites as follows:

20. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:
a computer including a CPU and memory;
a shared library stored in the memory of the computer, wherein the shared library includes an entry point function associated with a graphical program, wherein the graphical program comprises a plurality of connected nodes which visually indicate functionality of the graphical program;
wherein, in response to a program calling the entry point function, the entry point function is operable to invoke the graphical program.

Applicant submits that the prior art simply does not teach or suggest a shared library stored in the memory of a computer that includes an entry point function associated with a graphical program, wherein the graphical program comprises a plurality of connected nodes which visually indicate functionality of the graphical program. As discussed above, prior art methods for creating a shared library for text-based programs are simply not applicable to graphical programs. In particular, a graphical program may comprise one or more nodes (e.g., icons) which receive inputs and one or more nodes (e.g., icons) which produce outputs. Creation of a shared library that includes an entry point function associated with a graphical program may comprise mapping inputs and outputs of graphical program nodes to input parameters. This is not taught or suggested in the prior art. Thus, Applicant submits that a shared library stored in the memory of a computer that includes an entry point function associated with a graphical program would not have been obvious in view of the prior art.

Therefore, Applicant submits that the present claims are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

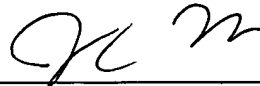
In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits the application is now in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is requested.

If any extensions of time (under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136) are necessary to prevent the above referenced application(s) from becoming abandoned, Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extensions. If any fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge said fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert & Goetzel PC Deposit Account No. 50-1505/5150-39900/JCH.

Also enclosed herewith are the following items:

- Return Receipt Postcard
- Request for Continued Examination
- Request for Approval of Drawing Changes
- Notice of Change of Address
- Check in the amount of \$ for fees ().
- Other:

Respectfully submitted,



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